

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-18. Canceled.

19. (Previously Presented) A method of producing an alkaline storage battery comprising an electrode group having a plurality of alternately stacked positive and negative electrodes, each electrode comprising a perforated core plate having two surfaces holding an active material, the electrodes separated via separators, which electrode group is placed in a metal outer casing, wherein the core plates of the electrodes disposed at an outermost side of the electrode group are exposed and wherein the exposed core plates are in contact with the metal outer casing, said method comprising:

(a) coating an active material slurry comprising a hydrogen absorbing alloy as an active material, a water-soluble binder, and a solvent for the water-soluble binder onto both surfaces of the core plate to form an electrode;

(b) drying the electrode coated with the active material slurry;

(c) removing the active material of the side of the exposed surface of the core plate; and

(d) applying the water-soluble solvent for the binder to the exposed surface side of the core plate.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of producing an alkaline storage battery comprising an electrode group having a plurality of alternately stacked positive and

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negative electrodes, each electrode comprising a perforated core plate having two surfaces holding an active material, the electrodes separated via separators, which electrode group is placed in a metal outer casing, wherein the core plates of the electrodes disposed at an outermost side of the electrode group are exposed and wherein the exposed core plates are in contact with the metal outer casing, said method comprising:

- (a) coating an active material slurry comprising a hydrogen absorbing alloy as an active material, a water-soluble binder, and a solvent for the water-soluble binder onto both surfaces of the core plate to form an electrode;
- (b) drying the electrode coated with the active material slurry;
- (c) applying a solvent for the water-soluble binder to the active material layer side forming the exposed surface of the core plate thereby softening the active material; and
- (d) removing the softened active material from the side forming the exposed surface of the core plate.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of producing an alkaline storage battery of claim 20, wherein the active material is removed in step (d), after the solvent for the binder is applied in step (c) and before the solvent has dried.

22. Canceled.

23. Canceled.

24. (Currently Amended) A method of producing an alkaline storage battery comprising an electrode group having a plurality of alternately stacked positive and negative electrodes, each electrode comprising a perforated core plate having two

surfaces holding an active material, the electrodes separated via separators, which electrode group is placed in a metal outer casing, wherein the core plates of the electrodes disposed at an outermost side of the electrode group are exposed and wherein the exposed core plates are in contact with the metal outer casing, said method comprising:

(a) coating an active material slurry comprising a hydrogen absorbing alloy as an active material, a water-soluble binder, and a solvent for the water-soluble binder onto a core plate;

(b) drying the electrode coated with the active material slurry; and

(c) ~~attaching~~applying the solvent for the water-soluble binder to the dried electrode.